VOL. VII. No. ~~39~~ 32
FIVE CENTS

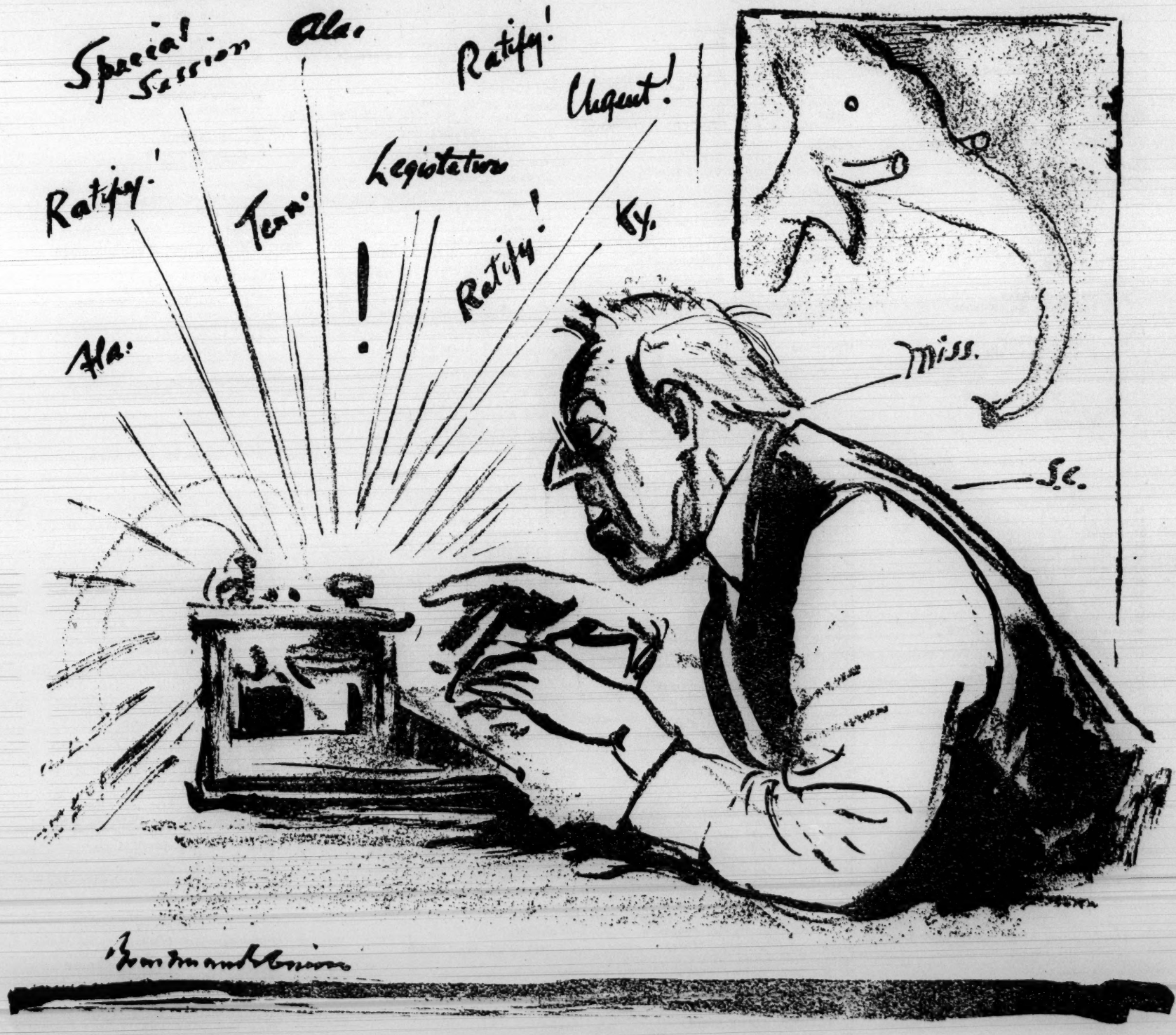
The Suffragist

OFFICIAL WEEKLY ORGAN OF
THE NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 1919

REPUBLICAN CONGRESS PASSES AMENDMENT

73% + Republicans — FOR 41% + Democrats — AGAINST



Drawn for The Suffragist by Boardman Robinson

"May I Not Suggest—"

Mr. President : Something More Than Words Is Necessary

National Woman's Party

(Incorporated, 1913)

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OBJECT: TO SECURE AN AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION ENFRANCHISING WOMEN

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Notes of the Week

A New Angle to Minimum Wage for Women

MINIMUM wage advocates in Washington state believe that the recent decision of a state Superior Court judge has practically nullified the good resulting from the conference which set the minimum wage in that state, and the possibility of a new conference is being discussed.

The conference referred to, between employers, employees and state officials of Washington, had agreed that the weekly minimum wage for women in that state should be $13.50. Now comes Judge Hurn, of the Superior Court, according to a news dispatch from Spokane, Washington, who rules that women must work for seven days a week in order to earn the $13.50 minimum promised them. In his ruling he says: "It is practically the universal holding of the court, in the absence of a statute, that a week means a period of seven consecutive days."

Later the State Industrial Commission made the following ruling in defining the terms of the minimum agreement: "This order shall be interpreted to mean an eight-hour day and a six-day week of 48 hours service weekly, or at the rate of 27½ cents per hour."

Judge Hurn held that this was not a part of the proceedings of the conference, which latter merely established the weekly rate and did not define any of the terms used. He dismissed a hotel keeper who had been fined for working a chamber-maid seven days in one week, declaring that a week must be taken to include Sunday toil if a week's minimum wage was paid. It has been suggested that the decision be appealed to the State Supreme Court as a test case.

Disqualifications-Removal Bill for British Women Altered in Committee

THE unfavorable expectation entertained by advocates of the Bill for the Removal of Sex Disqualifications in England has materialized. The bill has sustained important alterations in Committee, after having passed two successive readings in the House of Lords. Upon its emergence from Committee it was found that the clause which was to entitle peeresses in their own right to a seat in the House of Lords had been struck out, this omission having been secured at a late session, by Viscount Finlay. The other important alteration was with regard to the clause rendering women liable to serve on juries. This was amended in such a way as to give a judge power to make an order that, having regard to the nature of a case and the evidence to be given, the jury should be composed of men only or of women only, "as the case might require." This amendment was secured by Earle Reading, and it appears, would leave entirely to the discretion of the judge the decision as to what sort of case did or not affect women. This substitute Bill which is the one promised by the Government to take the place of the defeated Woman's Emancipation Bill, seems to be on the way either to an early grave or to a doubtful and mutilated success.

A Proposed Congressional Investigation

AN interesting case is presented by the proposed investigation by Congress into the alleged forcible detention of Mrs. A. E. Clark, of Portland, Oregon, the stripping her of her property rights and issuance of a decree of divorce against her while she was thus held in detention. Mrs. Clark claims that she is pressing the case to a thorough investigation in order to correct conditions which might in other similar cases leave women in a position of inequality before the law.

Women in the U. S. Civil Service

AT a recent meeting of the Assembly of Civil Service Commissions of the United States and Canada a report on Woman's Place in Civil Service was read by Miss May B. Upshaw, Assistant Chief Examiner of the Municipal Civil Service Commission of the City of New York, a report prepared by her from statements made by the civil service authorities themselves.

From this report it would appear that there are widespread discriminations against women, not only in the matter of appointment to the public service, but even in admission to examination. The Federation of Women's Civil Service Organizations is beginning a campaign to abolish these discriminations, which in some cases need only a change of practices, in some a change of rules on the part of the Civil Service Commission, and in some cases will demand legislation to obtain desired results. The efforts of this campaign will be directed especially in the following channels:

To remove discrimination against women in salary and advancement;

To open examinations to women;

To open appointments to women on the same terms as men by the abolition of the sex-lists of preference;

For the appointment of women on the Civil Service Commissions.

Wages for Women in Britain Rising But Still Inadequate

At a recent meeting of the Royal Statistics Society in London an address upon the status and rise in women's wages was given and discussed. It seems that the rise in wages during the war, though not an adequate one, was at least valuable in establishing a hopeful precedent.

According to the 1906 wage census, wages in the textile trade had increased by 23 per cent since 1886. During the war rates of pay rose gradually until at the end of 1918 they exceeded pre-war rates by 110 per cent in the cotton trade, 105 per cent in the woolen and worsted, and by 54 per cent in hosiery.

Dealing with shop assistants figures were given to show that as far as could be discovered wages had not advanced in the 20 years before 1914. During the war there had been a rise which was estimated at from 25 per cent to 50 per cent, but wages were in some cases still extremely inadequate.

It was hoped that the worst salaries would be leveled up by the establishment of a trade board with power to fix legal minimum rates. The paper and printing trades were chosen as an example of a typical semi-skilled trade for women. The wages of women in the printing trade, mostly employed as book folders and sewers, had risen from about 6s. a week in 1840 to 12s. 6d. in 1906. Since the war, scales of minimum wages had been agreed to in many towns, ranging from 22s. in small towns in East Anglia to 37s. for 48 hours in London.

In the sewing trades, wages in London were much higher than in the provinces, but did not appear to have increased between 1893 and 1914. There seemed, however, to have been a rise in provincial wages which had decreased the disparity. Before the war, wages in London ranged from 15s. for ordinary hands to 30s. for heads of tables. A recent order of the Minister of Labor fixed a legal minimum rate of 7d. an hour, or 28s. for a 48-hour week, for all adult women. In 1913 the ready-made tailoring trade had fixed a minimum of 3¼d. an hour, which had been gradually raised to 4d. Milliners' wages had increased rather less. Wages far in excess of the minimum were often paid in order to attract better workers.

First Woman Trade-Unionist Appointed to Industrial Service

APPOINTMENT of Miss Mary Anderson as director of the Woman-in-Industry Service of the Department of Labor, announced last night by Secretary William B. Wilson, brings a trade union woman for the first time into office as a Federal bureau chief.

Miss Anderson, who was born in Sweden, came to America when a very young girl and for thirteen years was a shoe factory worker. She is a member of the executive board of the International Boot and Shoe Workers' Union.

The function of the Woman-in-Industry Service is to formulate standards and policies which will promote the welfare of wage-earning women, improve their working conditions, increase their efficiency and advance their opportunities for profitable employment, Secretary Wilson said.

Working for Suffrage for the Special Session in Virginia on August 13

As Reported by Anita Pollitzer, National Organizer

WHEN you go about a ratifying campaign in Virginia, you first establish permanent Headquarters at a big hotel in Richmond—and then never stay there! That is quite an essential part of the whole thing; I'm sure it would be really fatal if you ever stayed more than one night!

After having successfully established your permanent headquarters in this fashion you next go about learning the geography of the state. And what an unexpected amount you do learn! Although your family, when apprised by letter of this phase of the work may be inclined to be unkindly skeptical of your powers of geographical assimilation, you may be sure that you will learn it, when applied in the eminently and sometimes painfully practical manner in which you discover it. And during the process you also learn to be profoundly approving of that wisdom which prompted the lawmakers of the state to call this Special Session for Good Roads!

Armed with a beautifully marked up map of Virginia—a great big one that shows all the little tiny towns and villages, and opens up to a size that makes your fellow passengers gaze at you in wonder—you depart from Richmond after your first night there, and go scooting across the country in the direction of some small spot that you never heard of before and that, after a time, you begin to believe the railroad companies never heard of either. But you usually get there in the end.—And you are surprised to discover that the big man you came to see is quite an approachable and in some cases even unremarkable individual. And after a few times you become used to the perhaps veiled surprise with which you yourself are greeted because you may not happen to measure up in size, and in all the exterior accompaniements of impressiveness, to the notion the man had of a would-be-woman voter, or a "female politician." That has such a large and alarming sound!

AFTER a few hours, or maybe a night, in this spot, you hurry off to another little red dot on your map. Maybe you learn for the first time in your much-traveled career that Virginia has a peninsula. You know that part of the Atlantic Coast Line that looks like Florida and isn't? Well, that's it. It joins onto Maryland, and almost reaches up to Delawere, and you wonder how in the world it ever happened to belong; and you cross Chesapeake Bay to reach it, and as your train winds around you go over about a thousand bridges over little lakes and streams and inlets and marshy ground—and then there you are. And sometimes it's all very lovely—and sometimes it isn't. Maybe you spend a long hot day on trains or country roads and dash into town with just barely time to bathe your face before your appointment; and then you spend maybe two hours trying to talk convincingly to a man, arraying before him all the arguments why, in the face of the Democratic situation elsewhere, it would be unwise of the Virginia legislature to pass by this opportunity to consider and adopt a resolution ratifying the suffrage amendment, going over with him carefully the entire political situation in the state—just why this man can not be counted on to do anything, and why there is hope that this other may—answering his questions, all of which sound hopeful—and then at the end have him rise majestically and announce—"All this is very interesting—yes—but I shall oppose it." Then you feel as though you were just about the most useless and ineffectual person in all the world, and you are so tired and discouraged you'd like to tumble down onto your little hotel bed and weep a little weep, but instead you square your shoulders and tell yourself "But this is absurd!"

Mrs. Sophie G. Meredith, of Richmond, Virginia, State Chairman and Leader in Work for Ratification

And shortly you go flying across the map to the next place. And probably here there will be waiting for you an interview that will leave you all strengthened with new hope and splendid new suggestions, and you go away with your head in the air and saying to yourself jubilantly "Virginia WILL ratify! I know it! She's going to be the fifteenth state to do it! We'll show them up North that the South isn't going to turn down suffrage after all!"

SOMETIMES, if you dared to let yourself, you could easily become discouraged just over the general attitude of the people around you, and you feel that even the ones that care most don't care enough. And then again you may arrive at a deserted-looking little out-of-the-way station, wondering how in the world you are going to find a conveyance to take you the miles and miles across the country that you yet have to go—and meet with the most delightful interest and courtesy in your trials and tribulations. Like the boy at ———, just a mere youngster of nineteen or so, he was, too—who appeared in the midst of a most hopeless quandry at a destitute station platform, and offered to take me, in his automobile, the long way across country to my destination (I had begun to think it was not a destination at all, but just a distant goal, never to be realized.) And then at the end of the journey this amazing lad, who had shown great interest in the work on which I had come, and asked many intelligent questions about the suffrage movement in general, announced that he had gotten so much valuable and interesting information that he couldn't think of accepting payment for the service he had done. You do find people like that once in a while! And the genuineness of them cheers you exceedingly.

THERE are all sort of amusing incidents, too, that enliven this business of seeing widely scattered political leaders. When you are arranging over long-distance for an appointment it is rather strange to have your amazed ears assailed with this statement, cryptically given—"You can't see him this afternoon. Hes' up in the air." Perhaps you are not sufficiently up-to-date in the parlance of this modern fly-away world to grasp the fact that the man is merely airplaning, and you go later to your deferred appointment with some little uncertainty as to the state of the eminent gentleman's temper, and are pleasantly surprised by his equable reception of you, until he explains about his afternoon's activities.

THE NATIONAL SUFFRAGE AMENDMENT

Joint resolution (H. J. Res. 1) proposing an amendment to the Constitution extending the right of suffrage to women.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by legislatures of three-fourths of the several states:

"ARTICLE.—The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

HISTORY OF THE AMENDMENT

Drafted

By Susan B. Anthony in 1875.

First Introduced

January 10, 1878, by Hon. A. A. Sargent, in the Senate.

Reported from Committee

In the Senate

1878, Adverse majority.
1879, Favorable minority.
1882, Favorable majority, adverse minority.
1884, Favorable majority, adverse minority.
1886, Favorable majority.
1890, Favorable majority.
1892, Favorable majority, adverse minority.
1896, Adverse majority.
1913, Favorable majority.
1914, Favorable majority.
1917, Favorable majority.
1919, Unanimously favorably.

In the House

1883, Favorable majority.
1884, Adverse majority, favorable minority.
1886, Favorable minority.
1890, Favorable majority.
1894, Adverse majority.
1914, Without recommendation.
1916, Without recommendation.
1917, Without recommendation.
1918, Favorable majority.
1919, Favorable majority.

Voted Upon

In the Senate

January 25, 1887. Yeas 16, nays 34. Absent 25 (of whom 4 were announced as for and 2 against).

March 19, 1914. Yeas 35, nays 34, failing by 11 of the necessary two-thirds vote.

October 1, 1918, yeas 54, nays 30, failing by 2 ot the two-thirds vote.

February 10, 1919, yeas 55, nays 29, failing by one of the necessary two-thirds vote.

June 4, 1919, yeas 56, nays 25, passing by 2 votes over necessary two-thirds majority.

In the House

January 12, 1915. Yeas 174, nays 204, failing by 78 of the necessary two-thirds vote.

January 10, 1918. Yeas 274, nays 136, passing by one vote over necessary two-thirds majority.

May 21, 1919. Yeas 304, nays 89, passing by 42 votes over necessary two-thirds majority.

RATIFICATION BY STATES

1 Wisconsin, June 10, 1919
House Vote 54 to 2
Senate Vote 24 to 1

2 Michigan, June 10, 1919
Both Houses Unanimous

3 Kansas, June 16, 1919
Both Houses Unanimous

4 Ohio, June 16, 1919
House Vote 73 to 6
Senate Vote 27 to 3

5 New York, June 6, 1919
Both Houses Unanimous

6 Illinois, June 17, 1919
House vote 133 to 4
Senate Vote unanimous

7 Pennsylvania, June 24, 1919
House Vote 153 to 44
Senate Vote 32 to 6

8 Massachusetts, June 25, 1919
House Vote 185 to 47
Senate Vote 34 to 5

9 Texas, June 28, 1919
House Vote 96 to 21
Senate Vote Unanimous

10 Iowa, July 2, 1919
House Vote 95 to 5
Senate Vote Unanimous

11 Missouri, July 3, 1919
House Vote 125 to 4
Senate Vote 28 to 3

12 Arkansas, July 29, 1919
House Vote 76 to 17
Senate Vote 29 to 2

13 Montana, July 30, 1919
House Vote Unanimous
Senate Vote 38 to 1

14 Nebraska, August 2, 1919
Unanimous Joint Resolution of both Houses

The Suffragist

AUGUST 16, 1919 VOL. VII No. 32

Issued Weekly by National Woman's Party
14 Jackson Place, Washington, D. C.
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Subscriptions: Domestic, $1.00; Foreign, $1.50. Single copies 5 cents. Make checks, drafts, and post office orders payable to The Treasurer of the National Woman's Party

Columbian Printing Company, Inc., Washington, D. C.

Entered as second-class matter, Nov. 14, 1913, at the Postoffice at Washington, D. C., under act of March 3,1879

The Democratic Administration and the Power of Words

WHAT will the Democratic Administration do for suffrage ratification—beside words?

IN the past women have had demonstrated to them so effectively the ineffectiveness of mere unsupported words. Has the Democratic Administration not yet learned that speeches alone cannot give to women what they need, and that speeches alone will not satisfy them?

IT would seem that the Democratic Party as a Party is deeply concerned over the marked failure, so far, of Democratic state legislatures to do their part in hastening the success of suffrage ratification. The National Democratic Committee has passed resolutions supporting immediate action by all Democratic states. The President, as head of his Party, and various of his Cabinet officers have written messages to those Democratic states wherein ratification was an issue. All these various individuals, speaking as authoritative Party leaders, have used unmistakable terms in their messages. They have said plainly that the political future of the Democratic Party may very largely depend upon the action or non-action of Democratic states in giving their endorsement to the Federal Suffrage Amendment. They have pointed out that the woman's vote is to be a tremendous factor in the next Presidential campaign and have urged that the Democratic Party do nothing to antagonize it.

AND still these strong word-appeals have accomplished nothing, so far. Is that not ample evidence to the senders that something more is needed? These leaders are not accustomed to fail when they set out determinedly to shape the policy of their Party followers. Do they intend now to content themselves with having spoken—to no purpose? Or will they seize their opportunity and push their appeals through to success for the good of their Party and of American womankind?

Schedule of Legislative Sessions

Two States Are in Legislative Session This Month

Alabama, (where Senate voted 19 to 13 against ratification, but where reconsideration may yet take place.)

Virginia, (convened August 13, in special session for good roads and other subjects.)

Two States Which Have Been Called in Special Session Next Month

Minnesota. (Special session called Sept. 8 for suffrage and other matters.)

New Hampshire—Special session called for suffrage Sept. 9.

The Following Eight States Which Have Not Ratified Do Not Meet In Regular Session Until 1920

Kentucky—January.
Louisiana—May.
New Jersey—January.
South Carolina—January.
Mississippi—January.
Maryland—January.
Rhode Island—January.
Utah—December.

The Following Twenty-one States Which Have Not Ratified, Do Not Meet In Regular Session Until 1921

Arizona—January.
California—January.
Colorado—January.
Idaho—January.
Indiana—January.
Maine—January.
Nevada—January.
North Dakota—January.
Oklahoma—January.
Oregon—January.
South Dakota—January.
Vermont—January.
Washington—January.
Wyoming—January.
Florida—April.
Connecticut—January.
Delaware—January.
North Carolina—January.
New Mexico—January.
West Virginia—January.
Tennessee—January.

The Conference of Governors in the West

THE Governors of all the states are to meet this month in conference at Salt Lake City, Utah, the session lasting from the 18th to the 24th of August. At this conference the governors of those states that have not yet ratified will have an opportunity to confer together in person upon the question of concerted action in the calling of special sessions for that purpose.

Governors of states which have already ratified, such, for instance, as Governor Sproul of Pennsylvania, have signified their intention of doing all in their power to urge upon the Governors of other states the necessity for speedy and concerted action in the matter of ratifying. They are anxious that the act of ratification in their own respective states may be put to some practical use in liberating the vote of the women of these particular states,, as well as of the United States as a whole, for unless the women were already voters by state action the separate act of ratification can have no effect until all thirty-six states have ratified.

Mrs. Abby Scott Baker, of Washington, D. C., Political Chairman of the National Woman's Party, goes to Salt Lake City in the interest of the Woman's Party and early ratification. She will point out that seventeen Republican governors whose state legislatures have already been polled to show a majority in favor of ratification, and four Democratic governors whose states—Maryland, Nevada, Oklahoma and Utah—also show a favorable poll, must assume the responsibility for women's not voting in the Presidential elections of 1920 if ratification is not complete before that time. If these governors would agree to act immediately, all the necessary special session could be called simultaneously this month and women could vote in the Autumn elections of this year.

Minnesota and New Hampshire Call Special Sessions

SUCCESS in the campaign for a special session in Minnesota has occurred, according to a telegram just received from Mrs. A. R. Colvin, Chairman of the Minnesota Branch of the National Woman's Party. This telegram bears the news that in answer to the request sent to Governor Burnquist from the State Ratification Conference of August 8, the Governor has called a special session for the eighth of September. Suffragists in Minnesota know that the special session means successful ratification, since the poll of the state legislature shows a majority favorable to Federal Suffrage. Minnesota is one of the states which had already granted Presidential suffrage to its women this Spring. Also, the Minnesota delegations in both Houses of Congress voted unanimously in favor of the Susan B. Anthony Amendment at its passage there in May and June, 1919. Governor Burnquist has at no time been adverse to the question, but has needed persuasion in order to see that the calling of the special session at an early date is essential to the complete success of the suffrage ratification in time to be of greatest benefit to women.

AS the magazine goes to press a telegram comes from Mrs. Lois Warren Shaw of Manchester to the effect that the New Hampshire legislature is to have a special session for suffrage. So Governor Bartlett is translating his interest, as shown in his effort to get a poll of governors on the suffrage question, into definite action in a most gratifying manner.

The telegram briefly states that the Governor and his Council have set September 9 as the date for the special session—and New Hampshire, coming the day after Minnesota, is counted on likewise to ratify.

Another Chapter in the Ratification Serial

MRS. Alexander Thompson, the only woman representative in the Oregon legislature, is one of the many legislators who are writing in to Governor Olcott to urge a special session for ratification. She says:

"I am writing at this time to volunteer my attendance at my own expense should you see fit to call this special session, and also to urge upon you the necessity for so doing.

"You take the stand that if Oregon's ratification were necessary to determine the question you would unhesitatingly call the session. But do you not see that if every governor takes this same view of the matter, no headway can be made?

"It seems to me highly important and consistent with our progressive spirit that the states already in the suffrage column should take the lead in this matter. But prompt action on your part will help to inspire other states and pave the way for the settlement of this question in time for the Presidential election in 1920.

"This election promises to be the most momentous in the history of our nation. The women of the country have been a unit in contributing of their time, their money and their labor to prosecute this war to a successful termination, and now they claim, and justly, too, the right to participate in the rehabilitation of our country.

"I am hoping that your well-known spirit of progressiveness will prompt you to make arrangements in the very near future for the consummation of this most desirable condition. Let old Oregon lead the way in this as she leads in every other good movement."

The labor interests in Oregon are also backing the demand for a special session for ratification. Eugene E. Smith, labor member of the state legislature, has written not only to the Governor but to every member of the legislature urging prompt action, and recalling to them the resolution passed by the Federation of Labor convention at Atlantic City, supporting ratification. Mr. Smith also offered to donate his time and expenses for the special session. His letter concludes:

"I think in justice to the progressive men of Oregon who long since have voted to women a vote in affairs equal to their own, in justice to Oregon's fighting men who went to the front in such great numbers to fight for just such principles as are involved in the present legislation, and above all in justice to the women of Oregon who have in peace and war proved their ability, progressiveness, patriotism, and humanitarianism, that Oregon should be among the first to ratify this epoch-making amendment to our country's laws and constitution."

CHIEF Justice Walter Clarke, of the Supreme Court of North Carolina, has written to the Honorable Carter Glass, a Virginian, to use his influence to have the federal suffrage amendment brought before the Virginia legislature at the special session which is to be held this week for the purpose of providing for good roads in the state. This appeal for ratification, coming from such an eminent person as Judge Clarke, and one staunchly backing the interests of the Democratic Party, should have much weight in the Virginia campaign. The letter follows:

"State of North Carolina,"
"Supreme Court,
"Raleigh, August 1, 1919.

"Hon. Carter Glass:

"My Dear Mr. Glass:

"I fear that you will think it is presumptous in me to write you which I do in behalf of the ladies—a call which no Southern gentleman can refuse—and because as a Southerner and a Democrat I feel that it is important to the party and to the South that we should give heed to the oft repeated call of our great President that the suffrage amendment should be ratified.

"It is clear beyond all question, I take it, that the amendment will be ratified by the necessary 36 states in time for women to vote in the Presidential election of next year, and if this were not true, already in 29 states the women have the right to vote for President. It also seems clear that if suffrage shall be delayed or hindered by the opposition of the Democratic states of the South, it will be a hopeless effort to get enough votes of the women to carry the Presidential election for the Democracy.

"Knowing therefore, your great and deserved influence, would it be presumption in me, as a Southern Democrat, to place before you the importance to the party and to its hopes for national success, that the great state of Virginia should, through its legislature, ratify the amendment at its session this month.

"The General Assembly of North Carolina will not meet until next Spring. Were it to meet now I think beyond all question that it would very promptly ratify the amendment.

"Only a profound belief in the necessity of the Southern Democratic states ratifying the amendment and thereby showing that we are not hostile to the sentiment of the Party as overwhelmingly expressed elsewhere induces me to make this appeal to you. If you think that in doing so I have gone beyond propriety, I hope that you will excuse me on account of the motive which prompts this letter.

"With very high regards for you personally and for the lustre which you have added to Southern Statesmanship, I am,

"Most truly yours,
(Signed) "Walter Clarke."

Miss Mabel Vernon, National Secretary of the Woman's Party, has gone to Virginia this week to be present at the opening of the legislature and to assist Mrs. Sophie Meredith, State Chairman, in the ratification campaign. Miss Anita Pollitzer and Miss Betty Gram, National Organizers, have been doing ratification work in Virginia.

ACCORDING to the Baltimore Sun, requests for a special session of the Maryland legislature are becoming so numerous that, to quote that newspaper, "it may be necessary to establish as a part of the state government a Bureau For the Handling of Requests for Extra Legislative Sessions!" In the same vein it makes the suggestion that Governor Harrington hang a sign outside his office bearing the statement "No Extra Sessions Granted Today," in order to ward off the flood of interviewers and forestall the multitude of requests besieging him for such action.

Even the high food situation is entering into the question, and it is stated that the Maryland public is demanding quick relief from profiteering prices, so that the demand for a special session of the legislature, begun by the suffragists and declared unreasonable, too costly, etc., has been augmented from many directions. So far Governor Harrington has remained obdurate. How long he can continue to remain so against the increasing appeals from people who believe the necessity to be imperative, is a matter of doubt. Certain it is, however, that those interested in the immediate passage of ratification resolutions will continue to refuse to accept the Governor's ultimatum as final, and that the work for the special session for suffrage will lose none of its force and energy.

Mrs. T. W. Forbes, Harford County Chairman of the Maryland Woman's Party, recently arranged for a suffrage program in connection with a big political rally and Methodist Reunion which was held in her county. This was an out-door affair, very widely attended, and Miss Julia Emory and Miss Mary Dubrow, national organizers working in Maryland, were present, in charge of a suffrage booth, which was gaily decorated in Woman's Party colours and which proved a very popular gathering place. Here literature relative to ratification work was distributed, and the young women in charge answered many questions and advanced many arguments in favor of the special session for suffrage for which they are working. Miss Dubrow made a real "stump" speech from a tree-stump in the grove where the rally was held, and the force and enthusiasm of her address aroused a great deal of interest, and made itself very strongly felt.

MRS. Sophie S. W. Clark, of Seattle, State Chairman of the Washington Branch of the National Woman's Party, is arranging meetings in Seattle to aid ratification in that state. Some national representative of the organization will probably go to Washington to assist in the work. In the meantime deputations to the Governor will be started. One of the Washington Representatives in Congress has already promised to urge upon Governor Hart the necessity for a special session.

ENCOURAGING news comes in every few days from ratification headquarters in Delaware, where the work is progressing with great success, and where those in charge feel that it is now only a matter of days until the forces in favor of instant ratification will have been marshalled and the special session called. They hope that this may be accomplished before the Governor leaves for the Conference of Governors in the West. Governor Townsend, as reported in last week's Suffragist, has agreed to call the session as soon as he is assured by a complete poll of the legislators, that the measure will go through safely. This poll the women have every hope of being able to present to him before he leaves the state, and there seems no question but that it will be an entirely satisfactory poll.

MISS Ella Riegel, member of the National Advisory Council, is in North Dakota assisting in the campaign for a special session campaign there, of which Mrs. Charles Amidon, of Fargo, North Dakota, State Chairman of the Woman's Party, has charge. Miss Riegel has been touring the state in her automobile, and she stopped for a conference with Governor Frazier relative to the need of a special session for ratification. North Dakota is also a partial suffrage state, and should be among the early states to ratify the federal amendment, for which both United States Senators and all three Representatives voted favorably when it was before the Congress in the early summer. Governor Frazier seemed much interested in the reasons for immediate ratification, and while refusing to commit himself at that time, told Miss Riegel that she might quote him as saying that he would at least consider the question of calling a special session of the legislature in September.

AFFAIRS in Colorado regarding a special session are still somewhat at a standstill, although suffragists are continuing their work in its behalf with undiminished energy. In view of the expected recess of Congress this month, Mrs. Bertha W. Fowler, State Chairman of the National Woman's Party, again wrote to the Governor at the beginning of August, to ask that he no longer delay the calling of the special session awaiting action on other bills. In answer to her letter, which we are printing here, the Governor replied merely that he had not yet decided on a date for the special session of the legislature, but would make it public as soon as the decision had been made. Mrs. Fowler's letter is as follows:

"Governor Oliver H. Shoup,
"State Capitol,
"Denver, Colorado.

"My Dear Governor Shoup:

"I enclose clippings from the Gazette which are of great interest to us, as showing that in view of the coming recess of Congress, and the consequent postponement of all legislation indefinitely, the way may now be clear for the immediate calling of a special session of the Colorado legislature to ratify the suffrage amendment.

"It will obviously be impossible to wait further for the passage of the Soldiers and Sailors Land Bill, which I believe you told us, was the legislation you had specially in mind when deferring the call for the extra session.

"It is of grave importance, if the women of the country are to vote in the November elections, or even in 1920, that immediate action be taken by these western suffrage states; and we again urge you to consider the political importance of immediate action from the Republican standpoint, as well as from the point of view of justice to the women of the nation.

"In a recent letter to Dr. Spencer, you say, 'I see no real necessity for an early call, for the reason that a poll of the legislature indicates that the vote will be practically unanimous on the suffrage question.' May I call your attention to the fact that all suffrage states will ratify without doubt; hence that point does not enter into the issue. The question is whether Colorado, as a pioneer suffrage state, and in accordance with the pledge of the Republican Party now in power, to use earnest effort to secure prompt ratification by the states, will give, by calling an immediate special session, the necessary impetus to about seventeen suffrage states to do the same. Only this action will assure complete ratification at a reasonably early date.

"Hoping for a favorable reply,
"Sincerely yours,
(Signed) "Bertha W. Fowler,
"State Chairman."

A New Book About Women in the War

THE SUFFRAGIST is in receipt of a newly published little book from the George H. Doran Co., New York, which has proved very interesting reading, and quite distinctive reading, too, when compared with the usual emotional word-picture which is drawn for us about women in the European war just ended.

The book is given the title "The Sword of Deborah," and comes from the pen of F. Tennyson Jesse, the young English novelist who had already begun to "arrive" before the war began, and who has since found an even wider field for her literary activities. She was one of the few woman correspondents, it is said, to be allowed to reach the firing line and discover for herself just what it was that the great body of English women workers who had gone into the field were actually doing and how they were living, along directly behind the first line encampments.

"The Sword of Deborah" tells that story with a very penetrating insight into the motives, the problems and the hardships of these women—girls, so many of them. It tells very simply and engagingly of the author's descent into the "world of initials," as she calls it, where live the W. A. A. C.'s and the V. A. D.'s and the F. A. N. Y.'s, and all the other women's service corps which, we learn as her story progresses, played such a great and unheralded part in the machinery of the war. It is a story which will be of interest to women generally, not only because it gives an intimate picture of what English women demonstrated that they could do in a desperate crisis, not only because it is a very adequate history of the achievements of women of the motor convoys, of the first-aid huts upon the firing line, and at the innumerable other active posts where they were stationed—but because it deals too with the problem of what is to be the life of these women after they return to peacetime ways. F. Tennyson Jesse recognizes this as a problem no less surely than the much-talked of question "will soldiers be content to settle down to their old jobs and the same old economic status as before the war?" Will this army of young women, having tasted a usefulness equal to man's, and some of them, perhaps, for the first time—be willing to go back to the old, circumscribed way of living, or the old, under-paid job? The author recognizes it as a very big problem, and attempts to deal with it, with what success only the reader can speculate for herself, and events must prove.

If any one thing has been so drawn, perhaps the author has drawn this as the moral of her discoveries behind the firing line: "that if the war hadn't done anything else, at least it had killed that irritating masculine 'gag' that women couldn't work together. For that, after all," she says, "will always be to some minds the surprise of the thing—not that women can work with men, but that they can work together."

E. K.

Comments of the Press

Ratifying Equal Suffrage

LEADERS of the woman suffrage movement are engaged in arousing public sentiment in favor of special sessions of legislatures the coming fall to ratify the equal suffrage amendment. If the amendment is ratified promptly, the women of the whole country will be qualified to participate in the presidential election next year.

Governor Stephens, of California, has taken up the question of governors of all states west of the Mississippi acting in concert. He has asked them to promise to call special sessions on condition that all the other governors make the same promise. If the unanimity he hopes for is secured there would be good prospect of the amendment's ratification before the next general election.

It is understood that Governor Olcott and a majority of Multnomah's members of the legislature favor a special session to ratify the amendment, but to consider no other matters. As the cost will be within $5,000, there can be no reasonable objection. Of course Oregon will ratify the amendment unanimously.—Portland, Oregon, Telegram, July 28, 1919.

Fooled by a Senator

JUDGE DUPRE, just as we predicted, makes haste to correct his radical misrepresentation of the federal suffrage amendment, a dismal digression from the path of fact we pointed out to him last Monday.

The Judge, however, as we also predicted, while freely confessing his error, does not at all recant his opposition to woman suffrage, which he was using that error to attack.

When reason fails and you still persist in the same position as before, an important fact is betrayed. Your position is not a conviction. It is not even entitled to be called an opinion. It is a mere prejudice.

The Judges' fundamental error lay in describing the suffrage amendment as identical in every respect with the race amendment, except in the addition of the word "sex." Therefore, he reasoned, when you endorse this suffrage amendment, you endorse and re-enact the race amendment, which the South has always refused to endorse.

He explains that his error was based on a statement credited to Senator Smith, of South Carolina, during a speech in the United States Senate.

It is on precisely such misinformation that old prejudices have been foolishly stirred all over the South during this suffrage discussion by men who, like the Judge, don't want women to enjoy the rights of free citizenship, who are "going to oppose it to the last quarter of an hour."

It is quite likely that a majority of the people of Louisiana would vote against ratification of the suffrage amendment on the utterly mistaken idea that in some way it is connected with a revival of the race issue. If so, they have simply been misled to that extent by the unchallenged iteration and reiteration of the threadbare old untruth that we have been exposing.

They have heard this so often that they believe it, since it was so obviously untrue that nobody seemed to take the trouble to deny it. We don't doubt that some of the politicians who originally circulated it in the knowledge that it was not true have themselves repeated it so often that for them it has become a fact.

Meanwhile, the issue of state suffrage may be before the people of Louisiana at any time. Let it never be forgotten that the politicians who have defeated woman suffrage by state action through all these years are responsible for federal suffrage, and for every one of its consequences. Were these consequences to be even blacker than the fancies falsely predicted, these gentlemen will be to blame. Were it not for them there would be no earthly reason for a federal amendment. The states would long ago have done justice to womanhood, under democracy, of their own accord.—New Orleans La., Item, July 17, 1919.

Suffrage and Politics in Connecticut

JOHN Alexander Henry Robinson, who is city clerk of Bridgeport as well as Republican Town Chairman—and whose hair is, well, sandy—and whose disposition full of "pep" that goes with sandiness, has risen upon his hind legs to enunciate a verbal assault upon the "up-state clique" that controls Republican politics in Connecticut. John Alexander Henry—Alex for short, is a king pin of the Bridgeport Republican machine, of which John T. King is the head and he is an enthusiastic booster for Clifford B. Wilson for governor—Clifford B. Wilson for governor being persona non grata with the John Henry Roraback branch of the party. Such a description sets the stage to show the animus of a Robinson attack on Roraback. It much resembles a King attack on the same victim, if a person so large, so capable of self defense and so good natured withal as the state chairman can be properly described as a victim. That's probably what leads the Courant to describe the Robinson diatribe as the "voice of King."

The text of Mr. Robinson's complaint is the Rorabackian attitude toward woman's suffrage, which is "thumbs down." Mr. Robinson charges that Roraback turned down the women who wanted to lend assistance to the Republican Party, that he sent delegates to Washington to oppose organizing Republican women of non-voting states and that he has acted generally in a manner to offend voters-to-be, which isn't good politics and won't help the Republican Party.

The indictment is true, of course, particularly the charge that when the Republican National committee called a conference of women in Washington, Mr. Roraback turned down as delegate to that conference the wife of a Republican of state-wide prominence, who happens to be a woman suffragist and the accredited representative of the suffragists; and selected as the representatives of the women of Connecticut two leaders in the anti-suffrage cause. Thus the discussion of plans for organizing women voters within the Republican Party in Connecticut was put in the hands of women who are doing their utmost to keep women from becoming voters. The Post agrees that it wasn't good politics.

If the women get the vote the suffrage workers of Connecticut will make war upon Roraback. The chairman knows that if his tenure of office depends on the women who have been fighting for the vote, that tenure will be short. That probably is the explanation of his peculiar selection of Washington delegates. What he is apparently trying to do is to help into power among women voters, when women shall vote, those who always have had his support in suffrage campaigns of the past—the antis. If the women who are now fighting suffrage, become the powerful women of the state after women are given the vote, Roraback authority will continue much longer

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than if women who have been striving for the vote remain influential after getting it.

That's the situation in a nutshell, so far as the voting of women and their organization as members of the Republican Party is concerned. What adds interest to the whole affair is that the women are likely to be enfranchised for next year's elections, perhaps for next year's primaries, and they may have a voice even in saying whether Mr. Roraback or Mr. King shall name the next candidate of the Republican Party for governor of Connecticut. It would be poetic justice for a well known citizen of North Canaan if that turned out to be true.—Hartford (Conn.) Post, Aug. 2, 1919.

The Newness of Women

SO aboundingly full of promise to the political future of America is the settling of the question of the federal suffrage amendment that we are moved to felicitate the new-born woman voter on the broad expanse of human usefulness that opens up before her. We have a right to expect from woman's freed and enfreeing activities a new vitality of reform and a veritable springtide of human progress.

This for two reasons. In the first place, we shall have the play of the heart in the comprehension of social problems. The poetic conceit that "man's love is of man's life a part, 'tis woman's whole existence," is true on far broader lines than the dove-cooing purport of its inditer's intent. Love enfranchized, socialized, universalized in all the apparently non-sex uses and utilities of human life is still woman's whole existence. Her physiological processes concentrating in human motherhood are a symbol of a mental refinement of receptivity that qualifies her to comprehend by intuition and at first hand truths and problems for which the masculine mind toils and moils through drudging experimentation, writhes under the pressure of prejudice and tradition, and agonizes in temptation before it crosses the Jordan of struggle and doubt and plants itself in the Promised Land of rational common sense. Society needs as it needs nothing else, the divine natural aptitude of the enfranchised woman mind to believe and teach the great principles of human fellowship and grace.

In the second place, woman's entrance in full swing into political and social reform implies the expansion of domesticity to the conduct of national and world affairs. Woman is inherently and necessarily domestic in the very warp and woof of her soul. The interpretation of this principle was formerly that the man should strut forth with martial bearing and kill and plunder, connive and govern, while the meek consort of her heroic lord stayed at home to cook and clean and spin and mend. In all ages naturally the mother is where her children can be cared for. But our modern conception is that civilization is a very poor contrivance unless it is safe for children; and the awakened woman is seeing to it that the world shall become thus safe and cultural for childhood. With this conception of life there are no problems, no interests foreign to woman's province, and as time goes on the woman's love for home and child will transform our civil deserts into something better than Eden, because the new social order will be so scientifically organized it can endure.—The Public, June, 1919.

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	—
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Why Reopen Suffrage Issue

IT is difficult to see how the opponents of woman suffrage can hope to gain anything tangible by their effort to compel a referendum on the legislature's action with respect to the national suffrage amendment. The Secretary of State, on the advice of the Attorney-General, has declined to furnish the official blanks, which are necessary to start the referendum machinery, and this action is based upon the claim that only "laws" passed by the General Court and not "resolutions" in ratification of national amendments are subject to this procedure.

The state officials may or may not be right in this contention, at any rate the courts will probably be called upon to decide the point. But there is another factor in the situation and with it neither our legislature nor our courts have anything to do. The Federal constitution provides that amendments shall be ratified or rejected by the legislatures of the several states. It says nothing about ratification or rejection by a popular referendum. So far as the national government is concerned the action of the legislature is therefore conclusive.

If the opponents of woman suffrage should succeed in having the question placed upon the ballot at our next state election and should also obtain a popular verdict at the polls they will have gained something of a moral victory, perhaps, but it is hard to see how that eventuality would change the situation so far as the adhesion of Massachusetts to the national amendment is concerned.—Boston Herald, July 25, 1919.

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